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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 CIAE-00 EB-08 10-15
MSC-05 NSAE-00 HA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SAL-01 CA-01
RP-10 SR-04 SPRS-02 /082 W
-----136260 061138Z /14

R 060854Z JUL 81
FM AMEMBASSY JDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3847
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/WR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 1/14/77
IN CHARGE, _____
TS/ADM. _____
SECY. _____
INSTR. _____
SIGNED _____
IN A _____

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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SREF, PK, AF, SA
SUBJECT: SAUDI AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF

REF: A) STATE 97422; B) JIODA 4658

1. LOCAL ENGLISH AND ARABIC LANGUAGE PRESS REPORTED JULY 4 THAT HABIB CHATTI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, PRESENTED A CHECK FOR SAUDI RIYALS 50 MILLION (U.S. \$14.7 MILLION) TO PAKISTAN'S CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. THE GIFT, REPORTEDLY COLLECTED FROM THE CITIZENS OF SAUDI ARABIA, WILL BE USED TO ASSIST AFGHAN REFUGEES.

2. THE REPORTS SAID ALSO THAT RIYADH GOVERNOR, PRINCE SALMAN IBN 'ABD AL-AZIZ HAD PROVIDED ONE MILLION PAKISTANI RUPEES (U.S. \$437,000) TO PROVIDE ARTIFICIAL LIMBS AND MEDICAL TREATMENT TO WOUNDED FREEDOM FIGHTERS. THE SAUDI RED CRESCENT MISSION IN PAKISTAN WILL ADMINISTER PRINCE SALMAN'S DONATION. SAUDI DONATIONS REPORTED IN REFTEL B

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WERE ALSO MENTIONED.

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3. THE ARTICLES DESCRIBED THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY PRINCE SALMAN AND COMPOSED OF RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS, WHICH IS IN CHARGE OF COORDINATING AN APPEAL FOR REFUGEE RELIEF. THE PUBLIC WAS REMINDED OF A RELIGIOUS RULING (FATWA) ISSUED BY SHAYKH ABD 'AL-AZIZ BIN ABDALLAH BIN BAZ, PRESIDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCHOLARLY RESEARCH, FATWA, AND RELIGIOUS GUIDANCE, PERMITTING THE PAYMENT OF ZAKAT (AN ALMS TAX ON WEALTH) TO AFGHAN REFUGEES AND FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

4. COMMENT: THE TIMING OF CHATTI'S CHECK PRESENTATION AND THE ACCOMPANYING PUBLICITY ARE CALCULATED TO ENSURE THAT THE PLIGHT OF AFGHAN REFUGEES REMAINS IN THE PUBLIC EYE DURING RAMADAN - A MONTH MARKED BY PRIVATE CHARITY.
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